

## STORY OF THE GREAT FLOOD

One Similar to That of Biblical Narration Found on Tablet 4,000 Years Old.

The fragments of a cuneiform tablet, discovered 12 years ago, but deciphered only recently by Prof. H. V. Hilprecht of the University of Pennsylvania, tells the story of "the flood," much after the style of the Biblical narration. Prof. Hilprecht ascribes the date of the tablet to be between 2137 and 2105 B. C. It was excavated from the lowest stratum of the oldest part of the ruins of the temple library at Nippur, south of Babylon, and is made of unbaked clay.

As translated by Professor Hilprecht the inscription is as follows—the words in parenthesis being added by him: ("I declare unto) thee that the confines of heaven I will loosen, a deluge I will make and it shall sweep away all men together, but thou (the Babylonian Noah) seek life before the deluge cometh forth; for to all living beings, as many as there are, I will bring overthrow, destruction, annihilation. . . . Build a great ship and . . . total height shall be its structure. It shall be a houseboat, carrying what has been saved of life . . . with a strong deck cover it. The ship which thou shalt make, into it bring the beasts of the field, the birds of heaven and the creeping things, two of everything, instead of a number . . . and the family. . . ." The fragment is not written in Sumerian, the ancient sacred language of Babylonia, but in the Semetic dialect of the country.

## HOW HE DODGED THE ISSUE

Minister, Preaching Funeral Sermon for Worthless Man, Talked of This Glorious Age.

One of the hardest things a minister is called upon to do is to deliver an address at the funeral of a man for whom there is really nothing good to be said. Such moments of embarrassment do occasionally arise. How one person tactfully coped with the situation is thus reported in Human Life:

The very worst man in a mining camp not notorious for its plety died. The fellow had been terribly bad. If he lacked anything of total depravity, none could recall any evidence of it. He had been brutal and debauched and debased in every way known to mankind. When he died there was a quandary as to what to do at his funeral. He had been shot down in his boots, in defense of the very decency of the camp. A non-resident minister was sent for, and was told the awful truth about the deceased.

"Didn't he have any good points?" asked the minister.

"Not one."

"Wasn't he even kind to a child some time?"

"Never."

The minister was lost in thought a while; then he asked:

"When is the funeral to be?"

"Tomorrow at three. Will you preach?"

"Oh, yes!"

"What in the world will you talk about?"

"I shall talk," said the minister "on the glorious age in which this man lived."

## HE WAS WILLING TO WATCH

Burglar Wanted His Pal to Tackle the House With the "Load-ed" Key.

The man with his coat collar turned up, and his derby pitched down over his eyes, who was slogging along in the shadow of the building, suddenly beckoned to the man on the other side of the street. "Here's an easy one, Pete," he growled, hoarsely. "Where's an easy one?" snarled Pete.

"This here house. It's like taking gum from a stenographer that's fixin' her hair. Some chump has gone away an' left his latch key in this door." Pete took a swift look at the house and began to back up. "You can go to it," he said. "I don't want in on it."

"Are youse nutty?"

"Naw, I ain't nutty. But de feller wot lives dere is a low down sneak widout no feelin' fer nobody, an' I don't want nothin' ter do with 'im. No, I don't know him, but I'm next ter his game. He sticks that key in dere to ketch suckers like you. Dere's a wire on dat key, an' a million-volt battery attached to dat wire. I wouldn't touch it if yer'd gimme de First National bank. But go ahead—I'll be across de street watchin' wot happens."

Nothing happened.

## All Have Artificial Legs.

Loss of a leg is essential to a job with a Chicago firm. All but two of its 102 employees in the factory and in the branch offices wear one or two artificial legs. The institution manufactures artificial limbs, and the employees leave their work to show the newly fitted patients how well they can walk, run and jump with the artificial article. Makers doubt if there ever was such a thing as a "cork leg"—in which cork entered in any considerable extent into the making of the limb. Some of them claim that the name was derived from one Cork, who made artificial legs early in the last century in New York. In the present day they are manufactured from English willow, covered with a thin parchment or enamel, or of wood and leather.

## Sheep as Burden Bearers.

In the northern part of India sheep are put to a use unthought of in European countries. The mountain paths among the foothills of the Himalayas are so precipitous that the sheep, more sure footed than larger beasts, are preferred as burden carriers.

The load for each sheep is from 16 pounds to 20 pounds. The sheep are driven from village to village with the wool still growing and in each town the farmer shears as much wool as he can sell there and loads the sheep with the grain he receives in exchange. After his flock has been sheared he turns it homeward, each sheep having on its back a small bag containing the purchased grain.

## Telling the Age of Eels.

The scales of the eel tell its age. On each may be observed at intervals several more or less clearly marked lines parallel to the margin. These mark lines of growth, one for each year of the life of the fish. Three years, however, must be allowed for the innermost ring, as the eel has no scales until the third year. The scales do not overlap to any extent, and are arranged in series of small groups at right angles to each other, so as to resemble what is known as herring-bone brickwork. Conger eels, however, are said to have no scales.

## Almost as Slow as Nature.

Gibbs—I noticed you were late at the theater last night. I suppose your wife spent the deuce of a time putting on her hat.

Dibbs—No; putting on her hair.

## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

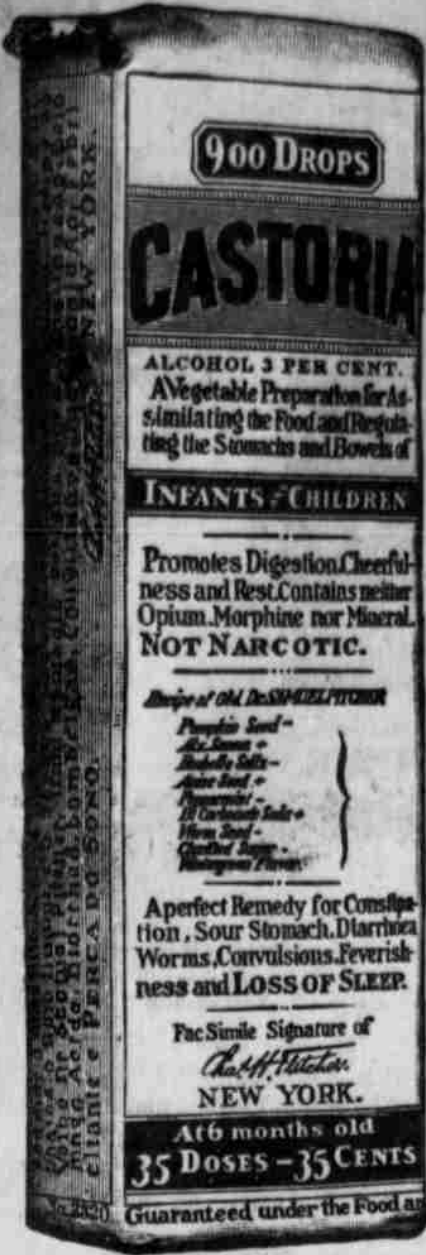
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CASTORIA



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**When? Not What?**  
Recently, when there was a more or less chaotic condition existing in the administration of the New York police department, two "old line" police captains were discussing the new order of things. Shaking his head disconsolately, one of them wailed:

"What are we coming to? What are we coming to?"

"It's not 'what are we coming to' returned the other, 'it's 'when are we coming to'."

## THOUGHT HE WAS A HOBO

Bartender's Suggestion to Rough Looking, but Wealthy, Patron, Was Meant to Be Kindly.

Tetlow is a man of substance and of some standing. He even lays claim to some literary ability, but he has careless habits. If his wife didn't watch him closely he would wear the same suit of clothes from one year's end to the other. He never thinks of getting shaved until some one asks him if he is trying to raise a beard. Naturally, he is apt to be misjudged by those who have nothing but his appearance to go upon.

Drinking whisky is one of his fads. He takes a drink when he likes it, and that is rather frequently, and he gets it wherever he happens to be. The other day he was in front of one of the new palatial hotels and thought he would see what sort of refreshment was served there. He asked for his favorite brand and the bartender set the bottle before him. Now Tetlow is not a heavy drinker, although a frequent one, so he poured out a very moderate amount.

The bartender looked his ill fitting and well worn clothes over and then glanced at the shallow drink he had measured out.

"See here, old man," said the bartender, "that's going to set you back 20 cents. You might as well get your money's worth."

Tetlow slammed down a ten dollar bill, got his change and walked out, leaving the drink untasted on the bar.

"I thought he was a hobo," explained the bartender to his friends.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## ENGAGEMENT

EXTRAORDINARY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

THE LEFFLER-BRATTON CO.

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## LIGHT THAT HAS NO HEAT

Improved Form of the Geissler Tube Overcomes Difficulty That Has Puzzled Scientists.

When the current of a Rhumkorff induction coil is passed through a glass tube in a vacuum the tube glows with a brilliant light. This is the light of the future. Hitherto it has not been possible to produce light without producing heat. But recently an improved form of the Geissler tube has been invented which has overcome this difficulty. The light of the future will glow through long transparent tubes of all sizes and calibers, able to take the most varied directions and to run horizontally, vertically or obliquely, forming stars, rosettes, spirals, arabesques, etc.

The tubes radiate a diffused glow from end to end. The effect is a splendid, intense lunar light. This is the colorless light requires by painters for their studios, for museums and for the home. By charging the tubes with different gases various colors can be obtained. Nitrogen gives a warm golden glow.—Harper's Weekly.

## WOMAN LAWYER ACTIVE.

Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, the woman lawyer, of Washington, is preparing a synopsis of state laws pertaining to women and will expound the rights of her sex under the law in the International Council of Women, which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, next September. Mrs. Mussey is founder of the Washington College of Law, and always has taken a leading part in movements to enlarge the legal privileges of women. Recently she was elected a delegate to the international council, and her exposition of the American laws relating to women is expected to be an important part of the program.

## IMPORTANT TEXAS INDUSTRY.

The lignite coals of Texas are excellent fuel for stationary plants and domestic purposes. The coal mining industry in Texas at present is not extensive, but the time is not far distant when the state will rank as an important coal producer. There are thousands of acres of lignite coal in several counties of Texas. The coal runs from four feet to ten feet in thickness, ranging from 30 feet to 90 feet under the surface. At different places in the same section coal is found at a depth of 125 feet. The seams have no gas or fire damp and the lignite is easily mined.

## PREFER TO STAND.

Corporal punishment has been introduced into the schools at Mount Vernon, Ohio, and the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier learns that some of the boys of Mount Vernon have formed standing committees since the new order began.

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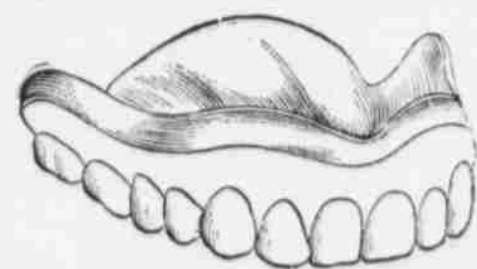
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